

MEDICAL, SOCIAL AND SIMILAR PRIVATE OR CONFIDENTIAL "EXCHANGES"

Many physicians and most of the public have an indefinite idea as to just what the "confidential exchange" idea means to those who may need medical advice. The idea originated, as so many ideas of this character do, in connection with medical service for those who were unable to pay. It did not mean much even at that time and, of course, it was not difficult to foresee at any time just where it was headed. It has been making tremendous strides, the most recent and pernicious of which is a scheme of this nature that sells its staff appointments to physicians and through connection with various mail order "doctors" and organizations, practices medicine by mail, directing the curious into certain channels for securing medical advice. Judging from the number of inquiries that the State Medical Society is receiving about some of these ventures, we must infer that the business of confidential exchange is profitable. The only thing confidential about these exchanges is that it is a confidential arrangement between certain specified persons, groups and organizations and certain other specified groups and organizations for their mutual advantage—at least, this is so in all of those who do any work with patients able to pay—and the practice is equally unsound whatever the class of patients. These organizations are known by various names and their contacts at both ends are of various kinds. The Journal wishes to warn the members of the State Medical Society against the possible difficulties connected with contacts with organizations of this kind.

RESOLUTION FIXING ADEQUATE EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR STAFF MEMBERS OR THOSE PRACTICING IN A HOSPITAL

The Hospital Betterment Service of the League for the Conservation of Public Health receives numerous questions from hospitals as to what they can do to insure adequate educational requirements for those who practice the healing art in the hospital and how they can protect their institutions, and those dependent upon them for advice, in all matters medical. The resolution given below was passed by the hospitals of California in convention assembled. It also has the approval of the League for the Conservation of Public Health and of the State Medical Society. The sense of this resolution is embodied in the articles of incorporation of many hospitals. It forms a by-law or an announcement of policy of many other hospitals. This staff requirement applies only to those hospitals that consider themselves agencies of medicine.

Hospitals conducted for the convenience of osteopaths, chiropractors, naturopaths, naprapaths, mental and various drugless practitioners licensed to practice so-called special methods will, of course, provide requirements acceptable to those who patronize and practice in these institutions. It is, of course, clear that hospitals cannot be of both classes at the same time.

Resolution

Resolved, that any person permitted to practice medicine by any method in any department of

_____ Hospital shall be a physician holding the degree of Doctor of Medicine from an institution of learning acceptable to the Association of American Medical Colleges, or the Council on Medical Education and Hospitals of the American Medical Association; who practices ethical medicine by utilizing any and all knowledge of proven value in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disease; who is licensed to practice medicine and surgery in the State of California and whose ethical, professional, moral and social conduct is such as to meet the approval of his colleagues and of the community.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

The constitution and by-laws of the State and County Medical Societies provide that annual dues shall be paid before March 1. After March 1, members who have not paid their dues lose the rights of medical defense and usually lose their inclusion in the published list of members in good standing for the year, both in the State Society and in the American Medical Association. The list of members in good standing is reported to the A. M. A. on March 1.

Representation in the House of Delegates of the State Society is based on the membership in good standing in each County Society as of March 1. For these and other reasons, it is exceedingly important that this matter receive the attention of all officers of the County Societies and of all members. Secretaries of County Societies in particular are requested and urged to send in their lists of membership with their checks for the State Society before March 1.

SCIENTIFIC EDITORIALS

The officers of the various sections of the State Medical Society have agreed to furnish scientific editorials for the Journal, the officers and members of the sections co-operating to produce timely editorials that will reflect progress in each of the various recognized specialties of medicine.

The officers of sections are listed in the Directory of Medical Organizations published in each number of the Journal.

This issue contains the first of these scientific editorials. It has been prepared by the secretary of the section on physiology, chemistry and pharmacology.

The co-operation of the officers and members of all sections is invited, to the end that this department may be made valuable.

THE SECTION ON SURGICAL ANATOMY

It will be recalled by readers of the Journal that the California Medical Society has recently added several new sections to the roster of its departments. It is to the newly formed division of Surgical Anatomy and Allied Sciences that I here wish to call your attention.

The State Society and the officers of this section trust that its entrance into the present field of medical and surgical subdepartments will assist in rounding out our annual scientific programs since contributions by this section should deal more especially with clinically applicable aspects of the basis subject of Anatomy and Embryology. It seems to us reasonable to assume that from the large numbers of papers written each year for the different departments falling under the head of General Surgery, a considerable number should be found to have much of their subject matter